

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A sealing apparatus ~~that seals~~ for sealing an annular gap between a shaft and a housing that are relatively rotated, the sealing apparatus ~~being provided with~~ comprising

a seal lip ~~that extends~~ extending toward ~~the~~ a sealing fluid side to be in sliding contact with a surface of the shaft ~~surface, characterized by being provided with~~

a projection disposed at ~~the~~ a root of the seal lip, ~~where the~~ a distance between ~~the~~ a surface of the projection and a center of the shaft ~~center is set to have a dimension being~~ equal to or slightly larger than ~~the~~ a radius of the shaft, and

at least a part of ~~the~~ a side surface of the projection ~~exhibits~~ exhibiting a suction function of returning ~~the~~ fluid that has leaked from ~~the~~ a seal lip tip end to ~~the~~ a sealing fluid side when the shaft and the housing are relatively rotated, the projection including a plurality of sets of side surfaces, the side surfaces of each of said sets forming a triangular shaped recess cut into the projection and pointing down towards the seal tip end.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A sealing apparatus ~~that seals~~ for sealing an annular gap between a shaft and a housing that are relatively rotated, the sealing apparatus ~~being provided with~~ comprising

a seal lip ~~that extends~~ extending toward ~~the~~ a sealing fluid side to be in sliding contact with a surface of the shaft surface, ~~characterized in that~~

an annular portion ~~is provided that projects~~ projecting out more to the sealing fluid side than the seal lip, and

the annular portion ~~is provided with~~ including a projection, ~~where the~~ a distance between ~~the~~ a surface of the projection and a center of the shaft center is set ~~to have a dimension being~~ equal to or slightly larger than ~~the~~ a radius of the shaft, and

at least a part of ~~the~~ a side surface of the projection ~~exhibits~~ exhibiting a suction function of returning ~~the~~ fluid that comes in ~~to the~~ from an inner circumference side of the annular portion to ~~the~~ a sealing fluid side when the shaft and the housing are relatively rotated, the projection including a plurality of sets of side surfaces, the side surfaces of each of said sets forming a triangular shaped recess cut into the projection and pointing down towards the seal tip end.

Claim 3 (Twice Amended): The sealing apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein one of ~~a pair of~~ the side surfaces of each of the sets of the projection exhibits the suction function when the shaft and the housing are relatively rotated in a first direction, and the other one of ~~the pair of~~ the side surfaces of each of the sets exhibits the suction function when the shaft and the housing are relatively rotated in a second direction opposite to the first direction.

Please add the claim as follows:

Claim 4 (New): The sealing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein one of the side surfaces of each of the sets of the projection exhibits the suction function when the shaft and the housing are relatively rotated in a first direction, and the other one of the side surfaces of each of the sets exhibits the suction function when the shaft and the housing are relatively rotated in a second direction opposite to the first direction.